(b) whether it is a fact that farmers in Andhra Pradesh are not getting adequate fertilisers at reasonable prices;

(c) whether fertiliser manufacturers in the State are also facing shortage of required raw materials for production; if so, the full details thereof; and

(d) how Government propose to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) muriate of Potash (MOP) is a decontrolled fertilizer. The availability of MOP is regulated by the market forces of demand and supply operating with the parameters of Concession Scheme of Government of India. During Kharif 98, the State Government had requested for arranging additional supply of 45,000 MTs of MOP. Against this, nearly 32,000 MTs of MOP was additionally made available to the State by different MOP suppliers. The distribution of fertilizers within the State is made by the State Government which is responsible for ensuring its availability to the farmers.;

(c) and (d) The imports of MOP during Kharif98 were lower which affected the production of complex fertilizer manufacturers. However, adequate imports of MOP have been contracted for Rabi' 98-99 and ther is no further problem of its availability.

उर्वरक परियोजनों की समीक्षा

2177.**श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव**: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वर्तमान सरकार के वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान कार्यभार ग्रहण करने के पश्चात देश में आरंभ की गई उर्वरक परियोजनाओं की समीक्षा की हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो चालू वर्ष के दौरान इन परियोजनों और इन परियोजनाओं के लिए किए गए आवंटन संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या प्रदान की गई धनराशि समय पर काम पूरा करने के लिए अपर्याप्त है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप लागत और समय में वृद्धि हो रही हैं;और

(घ) यदि हां,तो इस प्रयोजनार्थ मांगी गई धनराशि और उपलब्ध कराई गई धनराशि का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा.ए.के.पटेल): (क) से (घ) निजी क्षेत्र में उर्वरक परियोजन स्थापित करने के लिए कोई भी बजटीय आबंटन नहीं किया जाता है । वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान केन्द्रीय सरकारी /सहकारी क्षेत्र में कोई भी मुख्य उर्वरक परियोजना आरम्भ नहीं की गई अत: इसका कोई प्रश्न हीं नहीं उठता ।

Losses of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.

. 2178. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fertilizer Corporation of India Lts. suffered a loss of Rs. 538 crores; 1996-97; and

(b) if so, what are the financial results for 1997-98 and the first half of 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The company incurred a net loss of Rs. 735.69 crore during 1997-98 and is reported to have made a loss of Rs. 431.17 crore in the first half of 1998-99.

उर्वरक संयंत्रों का निर्माण करने हेतु ऋण

2179.**श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव**: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने उर्वरक संयंत्रों के निर्माण हेतु रियायती दरों पर ऋण उपलब्ध कराए जाने हेतु कोई व्यवस्थाकी है;

(ख) यदि हां,तो गत तीन वर्षो के दौरान वर्ष-वार और राज्य-वार कितनी-कितनी धनराशि ऋण के रूप में प्रदान की गई;

S (ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान निजी क्षेत्र को ऋण प्रदान किए जाने के संबंध में सरकार को कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा इन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा.ए.के.पटेल): (क) से (घ) उर्वरक परियोजनाओं के वास्ते लिए गए ऋणों पर 3% ब्याज छूट के लिए एक स्कीम चल रही थी । यह स्कीम 31.8.97 को समाप्त हो गई । निजी और सहकारी क्षेत्र की विभिन्न उर्वरक परियोजनाओं के लिए 72.63करोड़ रू.की राशि रिलीज की गई है ।

स्कीम के संचालन तथा इसकी व्याख्या संबंधी कुछ अभ्यावेदन समय-समय पर अलग-अलग कंपनियों से प्राप्त हुए है ।

Shortage of Fertilizers

2180. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage and blackmarketing of fertilizers in the country at a time when the farmers are planning to sow wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to make fertilizers available in the open market, to overcome the difficulties being faced by the farmers on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) There has been no shortage reported of urea during the on-going Rabi season which is the only fertilizer under price, movement and distribution control.

The availability and distribution of other fertilizers which are decontrolled, are regulated by the market forces of demand and supply operating within the parameters of the Concession Scheme of Government.

During the current Rabi ' season, localised shortages of DAP had/have been reported from the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Besides, the State of West Bengal had reported temporary shortages of MOP during November '98. These occurred due to:

(i) bunching of imports of nearly 7.S lakh metric tonnes during the months of October-November '98 due to which it (DAP) could not be pre-positioned;

(ii) concentration of nearly S lakh metric tonnes of DAP at the two ports namely, JNPT and Vizag which resulted in congestion and consequent delay in movement from these ports;

(iii) delay in movement due to cyclonic storm at Vizag port which affected movement of rakes for nearly 20 days; and

(iv) increase in peak demand due to increase in area under sowing of wheat.

(c) The Government took the following steps for reaching DAP & MOP to the States:

(i) Priority was accorded in berthing of DAP vessels at JNPT and Vizag.

(ii) Priority in movement was accorded by rail of DAP/MOP both from the plants and the ports.

(iii) Additional import of 55,000 metric tonnes of DAP have been arranged from . Jordan on priority through Indian Potash Limited.

Beside, the State Governments reportedly stepped up the vigil at their end and took action under Essentia!